

- the acetic anhydride quantity ranges from 3 to 7 mols/mol of anhydrogluclose,
- the esterification time ranges from 1 to 60 mn, and
- the esterification temperature ranges from 25 to 80°C.

[Amend claim 2 as follows:]

2. (amended) Process according to claim 1, characterized in that it comprises a step (iv) during which the reaction of step (iii) is stopped by adding an aqueous solution of acetic acid.

[Amend claim 3 as follows:]

3. (amended) Process according to claim 2, characterized in that it comprises the steps of:

(v) adding water in order to precipitate the optionally generated cellulose triacetates,

(vi) centrifuging, recovering the supernatant and eliminating the residue,

(vii) neutralizing the supernatant,

(viii) dialyzing the resulting precipitate, and

(ix) freeze-drying the solution.

Cancel claim 4.

Amend claim 5 as follows:

5. (twice amended) Process according to claim 3, characterized in that, at the step (v), the blend is maintained at a temperature of about 4°C for about 16 hours.

Amend claim 6 as follows:

6. (twice amended) Process according to claim 3, characterized in that the step (vii), is carried out by a slow addition of a sodium hydroxide solution until a pH of about 7.5 is reached.

Amend claim 7 as follows:

7. (twice amended) Process according to claim 3, characterized in that at the step (vii) the blend is cooled in an ice bath and the pH is continuously monitored so that the pH does not exceed 10.

Amend claim 8 as follows:

B5
8. (amended) Process according to claim 7, characterized in that the pH does not exceed 7.5.

Amend claim 12 as follows:

B6
12. (twice amended) Process according to claim 1, characterized in that the starting cellulose material is

B⁴
concl'd

cellulose residues purified from co-products derived from agriculture.



Amend claim 13 as follows:

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13. (amended) Blend of hydrosoluble cellulose sulfoacetate derivatives obtained by performing a process according to claim 1, characterized in that said derivatives have an acetylation degree ranging from 1.5 to 2.4.



Amend claim 16 as follows:

B⁸

16. (twice amended) Derivative blend according to claim 13, characterized in that only the carbon atom which is in position 6 of the anhydroglucose is sulphated.



Add the following new claims:

B⁹

23. (new) The process according to claim 3, wherein said process further comprises, before step (v), the following steps:

(a) centrifuging the blend obtained in step (iv), and recovering the centrifugation supernatant; and

(b) washing the residue obtained from centrifugation in step (a) with acetic acid, then with water, and then adding the acetic acid and the water resulting from the washing steps to the supernatant which was recovered in step (a).

24. (new) The process of claim 12, wherein the starting cellulose material consists of cellulose residues purified from co-products derived from cereal bran selected from the group consisting of wheat and corn.

25. (new) The process of claim 12, wherein the starting cellulose material consists of cellulose residues purified from co-products derived from wood cellulose selected from the group consisting of pine-tree cellulose and microcrystalline cellulose.

Charge the \$36 fee for the two additional claims in excess of 20 added herewith to deposit account No. 25-0120.

REMARKS

The specification has been amended as needed so as to take care of the points raised by the Examiner. No other points needing attention have been detected, but of course we would be grateful to be notified should any come to the attention of the Examiner.

The claims have been amended as to form. The efficacy of what we have done, to overcome the formal objections to the claims, is believed to be evident without extended comment. Suffice it to say that the optional steps that have been deleted from claim 3 have been made the subject matter of new claim 23